

Message

From: Proto, Paul [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B2E837D7ED4826B3AC421843833318-PPROTO]
Sent: 5/6/2022 6:54:38 PM
To: Neuschler, Catherine (MPCA) [catherine.neuschler@state.mn.us]
CC: Nichols, Miranda (MPCA) [miranda.nichols@state.mn.us]; Keclik, Donna [keclik.donna@epa.gov]
Subject: Quick question on Birch Lake water quality sampling

Hi Catherine,

A quick question for you on...Birch Lake and plans for follow-up water quality sampling efforts in Birch Lake prior to the MN 2024 listing cycle.

Donna has explained that you and her had a follow-up call on MN 303(d) and Birch Lake topics (approx. 4/21) where you mentioned that MPCA has plans to complete water quality sampling in Birch Lake/Bobs and/or Dunka Bays and the tributaries draining into those bays in the coming year(s). Those plans sound great and thank you for sharing those details with EPA.

My question is whether this information about follow-up water quality monitoring efforts or other future Birch Lake MPCA work have been shared outside of MPCA at this point? And whether any of these plans been shared with the Tribal partners?

I ask because we are responding to inquiries about our MN 2022 deferral on Birch Lake and are wondering if EPA can cite those future water quality monitoring efforts to be undertaken by MPCA? Namely that Minnesota plans to do water quality monitoring in Birch Lake in the coming year and that information will help augment the overall Birch Lake sulfate water quality data set and assessment decision-making in 2024 listing cycle.

And, if this information hasn't been shared outside of MPCA and you would rather we didn't cite/reference it, please let us know that as well. We don't want to overshare information which could create headaches for you all. So please consider that and let us know what is preferable at this stage in the game.

Thank you!

Paul

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